

NOTICE NO. 60/2026

**COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF UALG**

Title: 1 Research Fellowship - Master's degree holder (doctoral student)

A competition is open for the award of 1 Research Fellowship - Master's degree holder (doctoral student) within the scope of the project ALGARVE-FEDER-03255800 - TIMELEAP - 26130, funded by PT2030-SIID - Business R&D - Co-promotion, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Computer Science.
2. **Admission Requirements:**
 - a) **Academic qualification:** Master's degree in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, or related areas, accompanied by enrolment in a doctoral programme in relevant areas, or by a commitment to submit proof of enrolment and registration by the scholarship contracting stage. For admission and curricular evaluation purposes, proven skills in programming, preferably Python; machine learning and artificial intelligence; language models and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG); ASR/TTS; diarisation; lip-sync and audio-visual synchronization; evaluation of factuality, citability, WER, MOS and latency; software engineering, version control, containerisation or development pipelines; technical documentation; scientific publications or reproducible artefacts; and analytical ability, autonomy and communication in an R&D team context are particularly relevant.
 - b) It is mandatory to have oral and written technical-scientific proficiency in English, at a minimum B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or equivalent; C1 level or proven production of technical documentation, reports, software documentation or scientific publications in English will be valued. This requirement arises from the need to read and write technical documentation, communicate with the team and international partners, and participate in R&D meetings. Failure to provide proof or sufficient demonstration of technical English proficiency constitutes grounds for exclusion.
 - c) Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology and paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations: "*1. Research grants, hereinafter referred to as RG, are intended for the performance of R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree, master's degree or doctoral programme, aiming at the consolidation of their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective academic degree, whether or not integrated into R&D projects. 2. The grants referred to in this article may also be intended for the performance of R&D activities by bachelor's or master's degree holders who are enrolled in non-degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.*"
3. **Project Objectives:** Applied research, implementation, instrumentation and validation of factual conversational AI methods and speech pipelines applied to hyper-realistic 3D avatars, including retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) with citations and calibrated abstention, ASR/TTS, diarisation, lip-sync, evaluation of WER/MOS/latency, citation fidelity, factuality, linguistic bias and multimodal integration, contributing to the technical, experimental and documentation deliverables of the TIMELEAP conversational AI and speech track, in coordination with the UALg team and the consortium partners.
4. **Applicable Legislation and Regulations:** Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024 of October 1, and the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations. (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>).

5. **Workplace:** The work will be carried out on-site, under exclusive dedication, at the Visual Computing Lab, UAlg, Building 32, room 1.50, of the Instituto Superior de Engenharia of the University of Algarve, Campus da Penha, under the scientific supervision of Professor Jaime Afonso do Nascimento Carvalho Martins.
6. **Duration of grant(s):** The fellowship will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for September 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until the end of the project, taking into account the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations. (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/21000000/0013700149.pdf>).
7. **Monthly maintenance allowance amount:** The monthly maintenance allowance is €1359.64. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer. (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>).
8. **Candidate evaluation:** In accordance with Article 11(2) of the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations, candidates will be evaluated by curricular evaluation (CE, 0-20 points), including the candidate's merit, adequacy of academic and scientific background, relevant research or technical development experience, programming and software engineering skills, quality of documentation and scientific or technical outputs, and technical English proficiency. The interview (I, 0-20 points) is optional and may be held by reasoned decision of the Evaluation Board, for all candidates or for part of them, whenever the Board considers it necessary to clarify or confirm curricular, technical or language-related elements. If no interview is held, the final classification (FC) corresponds to the curricular evaluation: $FC = CE$. If an interview is held, it will have a maximum weighting of 20%, and the final classification will be calculated by $FC = 0.80 \times CE + 0.20 \times I$, on a scale from 0 to 20, rounded to the nearest hundredth.

The candidate must demonstrate, in the curriculum vitae, supporting documents and interview (if held), proven experience and technical skills in the areas of factual conversational AI, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), language models, ASR/TTS, diarisation, lip-sync, machine learning, programming, software engineering, experimental evaluation, instrumentation, benchmarking, reproducibility and technological prototyping.

The mandatory requirement for technical-scientific proficiency in English is assessed at the admission stage and, where applicable, during the interview, and failure to verify it determines the candidate's exclusion.
9. **Evaluation process:** After the curricular evaluation, the Evaluation Board will decide whether to conduct interviews and which candidates will be interviewed. Candidates with a curricular evaluation below 16 (sixteen) points will not be admitted to the interview. The Evaluation Board reserves the right not to propose the award of the fellowship to candidates with a final score below 16 (sixteen) points.
10. **Composition of the Application Evaluation Board:** The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):
 - Jaime Afonso do Nascimento Carvalho Martins (President) (Adjunct Professor; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
 - Pedro Jorge Sequeira Cardoso (1st full member) (Coordinating Professor; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
 - João Miguel Fernandes Rodrigues (2nd full member) (Principal Coordinating Professor; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
 - Roberto Célio Lau Lam (1st alternate member) (Adjunct Professor; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
11. **Publication/Notification of Results:** The final evaluation results will be published on the UAlg website, in a list ordered according to the final grade obtained, and the successful candidate will be notified by email.
12. **Application deadline and submission method:** The competition is open for 22 business days, from **09/07/2026 to 22/07/2026**.
13. **Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:**

- a) Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). Applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must submit a residence permit, permanent residence certificate or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date. Any of these may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of honour by the candidate; however, it must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b) Curriculum Vitae and supporting documents proving technical and scientific experience and skills relevant to the track;
- c) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, mandatorily specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;
- d) Proof of technical-scientific proficiency in English, at a minimum B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, or equivalent, or, in its absence, a declaration of honour by the candidate, without prejudice to the Evaluation Board being able to request oral and/or written demonstration of those competences;
- e) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
- f) The Application Form for the competition, dated and signed, **must be** addressed to the President of the Competition Evaluation Panel, <https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-pt.pdf>, **by email to jamartins@ualg.pt, Ref.^a TIMELEAP_BI_M_RAG_ASR_TTS**. In the aforementioned application, **the candidate must expressly consent to all notifications related to the tender procedure being sent to the indicated email address.**

14. Documents to be submitted for the scholarship agreement:

- d) Tax Identification Number; applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must submit it during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- e) Documents proving that the candidate meets the conditions required for the award of the respective type of scholarship, namely proof of enrolment and registration in a doctoral study cycle or in a non-degree course admissible under the applicable regulations;
- f) Declaration from the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, pursuant to Article 5-A of the Research Fellow Statute, as well as guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the proper development of the work and compliance with the duties set out in Article 13 of the Research Fellow Statute;
- g) Declaration of commitment to the exclusive dedication regime.

15. Deadlines and procedures for complaints and appeals:

Candidates may, if they so wish, comment on the draft decision to award the requested fellowship, at a hearing for interested parties within 10 business days, under the terms and for the purposes set forth in Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Candidates have the right to complain to the Evaluation Board regarding the commission or omission of any act within 10 business days.

An appeal may be filed against the final decision of the application evaluation panel to the Rector within 10 business days of the respective notification.

16. Scholarship contract:

After receiving all required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed with the selected candidate(s) in accordance with the attached template.

17. Evaluation of fellow(s):

At the end of each fellowship contract period, the advisor will evaluate the activity carried out by the fellow(s) by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached template:



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- a) Compliance with working hours, attendance and exclusive dedication regime;
- b) Compliance with the work plan and contribution to the R&D activities of the TIMELEAP conversational AI, speech and lip-sync track;
- c) Technical quality of prototypes, benchmarks, reproducible scripts/notebooks, documentation produced, communication with the team and partners, autonomy and reporting of results.

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the fellowship award procedure, within the scope of the Project in question, whenever funding is not awarded or the duration of the fellowship exceeds the project completion date.

University of Algarve, 06 July 2026

The Principal Investigator

Professor Jaime Afonso do Nascimento Carvalho Martins